

The Kingdoms of Israel & Judah Split / Elijah & the Priests of Baal

- **Private Choices are not private...**
- **True Conversion!**
- **“Our lives often turn on tiny hinges, as does the history of Nations”**
- **Questions:**
 1. Why did the Tribes split up?
 2. What exactly is Baal Worship and why was it so dangerous?
 3. How did the 10 Tribes become Lost? And where did they go?
 4. Why is it that miracles and miraculous events don't necessarily translate into conversion? (What is true conversion?)

The Kingdoms of Israel & Judah Split

- a. **Rehoboam & Jeroboam and the Split** (1 Kings 12-16)
- b. **Jeroboam's Issue & Solution** (build alters in Dan & Bethel; Baal) **VT (Tel Dan)**
- c. **Baal Worship** (BD Phoenicia, Baal, Groves; 1 Kings 16:30-33; Romans 5:19)
- d. **10 Tribes are taken away and become lost**

Elijah & the Priests of Baal

- a. **Elijah's & Priests of Baal**
 - i. **Mt. Carmel** (1 Kings 17-18; duel with the Priests of Baal) **VT (Mt Carmel)**
 - ii. **True Conversion** (and the process of Personal Revelation)

The 10 Lost Tribes

- a. (AofF #10)
- b. Pres. & Sis Nelson

Quoted References:

Old Testament:

Book of 1 Kings

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/1-kgs/12?lang=eng>

Bible Dictionary

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/baal?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/phoenicia?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/grove?lang=eng>

President Thomas S. Monson: “Choose You This Day” and “Choices”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2004/10/choose-you-this-day?lang=eng>

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2016/04/choices?lang=eng>

President Russell M. Nelson and Sister Wendy W. Nelson, “Hope of Israel”,

Worldwide Youth Devotional • June 3, 2018 • SLC, Utah

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2018/08-se/hope-of-israel?lang=eng>

“To Acquire Spiritual Guidance”

(Richard G. Scott, Oct 2009 Gen Conf.)

“How to Obtain Revelation and Inspiration for Your Personal Life”

(Richard G. Scott, April 2012 Gen Conf.)

1 Man’s influence = Romans 5:19

Rehoboam vs Jeroboam: 1 Kings 12:26-33, 15:34, 1 Kings 16:30-33, BD Baal, Phoenicia, & Groves (**Tel Dan**)

QUOTES:

“**Private choices** are not private; they all have public consequences. ... Our society is the sum total of what millions of individuals do in their private lives. That sum total of private behavior has worldwide public consequences of enormous magnitude. There are no completely private choices.” (**James E. Faust**, *Ensign*, May 1987, 80)

“As we gain experience with the Holy Ghost, we learn that the intensity with which we feel the Spirit’s influence is not always the same. Strong, dramatic spiritual impressions do not come to us frequently. Even as we strive to be faithful and obedient, there simply are times when the direction, assurance, and peace of the Spirit are not readily recognizable in our lives. In fact, the

Book of Mormon describes faithful Lamanites who “were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and they knew it not” (3 Ne. 9:20).

The influence of the Holy Ghost is described in the scriptures as “a still small voice” (1 Kgs. 19:12; see also 3 Ne. 11:3) and a “voice of perfect mildness” (Hel. 5:30). Thus, the Spirit of the Lord usually communicates with us in ways that are quiet, delicate, and subtle.” (Elder David A. Bednar, “*That We May Always Have His Spirit to Be with Us*”, GC April, 2006)

“The single most important skill that can be acquired in this life is the ability to qualify for, receive, and act on Personal Revelation!”

(Julie B. Beck, Relief Society General President, Ensign (CR) May 2010, p.11)

“**Write** the thoughts that come to your mind. Record your feelings and follow through with actions that you are prompted to take. As you repeat this process day after day, month after month, year after year, you will “grow into the principle of revelation.”

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018 & “Hear Him”, April 2020)

“My beloved brothers and sisters, I plead with you to increase your spiritual capacity to receive revelation... Choose to do the spiritual work required to enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost and hear the voice of the Spirit more frequently and more clearly.”

(President Nelson, *Revelation*, April 2018)

“I renew my plea for you to do whatever it takes to increase your spiritual capacity to receive personal revelation. Doing so will help you know how to move ahead with your life, what to do during times of crisis, and how to discern and avoid the temptations and the deceptions of the adversary.”

(President Nelson, *Hear Him*, April 2020)

“It has never been more imperative to know... how the Spirit speaks to you than right now!”

(President Nelson, *Hear Him*, April 2020)

“God Initiates (Creates)...Satan imitates...and man must differentiate”

Neal A. Maxwell

President Russell M. Nelson and Sister Wendy W. Nelson, “Hope of Israel”, Worldwide Youth Devotional • June 3, 2018 • Conference Center, Salt Lake City, Utah <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/new-era/2018/08-se/hope-of-israel?lang=eng>

On June 3, 2018, **President Russell M. Nelson and his wife, Wendy W. Nelson**, invited the youth to “enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord” and take part in “the greatest challenge, the greatest cause, and the greatest work on earth.”

And what is the greatest challenge? The gathering of Israel.

“My dear extraordinary youth, you were sent to earth at this precise time, the most crucial time in the history of the world, to help gather Israel,” the prophet said. “There is *nothing* happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is *nothing* of greater consequence. Absolutely *nothing*. This gathering should mean *everything* to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth.”

Sister Wendy Nelson:

“While that question simmers in your mind, let’s shift and talk about why you are here on earth—at *this particular time*, which is such a unique time in the history of the earth.

Why are you here on earth right now?

Why were you not born back in the 1880s? or 30 years from now?

Let me tell you of an experience that taught me firsthand about the historic days in which we live.

We often talk about living in the latter days. We are, after all, Latter-day Saints. But perhaps these days are more “latter” than we have ever imagined.

This truth became a reality for me because of what I experienced during one 24-hour period of time that commenced on June 15, 2013. My husband and I were in Moscow, Russia.

While President Nelson met with priesthood leaders, I had the privilege of meeting with nearly 100 of our sisters. I *love* our Russian sisters. They are spectacular!

When I stepped to the pulpit to speak, I found myself saying something I’d never anticipated. I said to the women: “I’d like to get to know you by lineage. Please stand as the tribe of Israel that represents the lineage declared in your patriarchal blessing is spoken.”

“Benjamin?” A couple of women stood.

“Dan?” A couple more.

“Reuben?” A few more stood.

“Naphtali?” More stood.

As the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were announced—from Asher to Zebulun—and as the women stood, we were all amazed with what we were witnessing, feeling, and learning.

How many of the twelve tribes of Israel do you think were represented in that small gathering of fewer than 100 women on that Saturday in Moscow?

Eleven! Eleven of the twelve tribes of Israel were represented in that one room! The only tribe missing was that of Levi. I was astonished. It was a spiritually moving moment for me.

Immediately after those meetings my husband and I went directly to Yerevan, Armenia. The first people we met as we got off the plane were the mission president and his wife. Somehow, she had heard about this experience in Moscow, and with great delight, she said, “I’ve got Levi!”

Just imagine our thrill when my husband and I met their missionaries the next day, including an elder from the tribe of Levi who just happened to be from Gilbert, Arizona.

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

God promised Abraham that his descendants would be His covenant people. This promise came to Abraham’s son Isaac and grandson Jacob, also called Israel. He had 12 sons whose descendants are known as the 12 tribes of Israel. Manasseh and Ephraim were sons of Joseph. Ancient prophets foretold the scattering of Israel. They also foretold that Israel would be gathered again in a future day. To learn more, see President Nelson’s October 2006 general conference message, “[The Gathering of Scattered Israel.](#)”



Illustrations by Bryan Beach

Now, when I was a little girl attending Primary in Raymond, Alberta, Canada, I learned that in the last days—before the Second Coming of the Savior—the twelve tribes of Israel would be gathered. That truth was thrilling to me and, at the same time, quite overwhelming to wrap my mind around. So imagine what it was like for me to be with members of all twelve tribes of Israel within one 24-hour period of time!

I have since learned that I probably should not have asked those sisters to identify themselves by lineage because patriarchal blessings are sacred and the lineage declared in them is personal. Yet I am so grateful for the privilege I had of seeing the fruits of the gathering of Israel firsthand. The impact of that experience has never diminished in my heart or mind.

My dear brothers and sisters, these are indeed the latter days! There has *never* been a time like this in the history of this world. Never! Premortally, you and I committed to do a great work while we are here on earth. And with the Lord's help, we will do it! In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

There has never been a time like this in the history of this world. Never! Premortally, you and I committed to do a great work while we are here on earth. And with the Lord's help, we will do it!

President Russell M. Nelson: Thank you, Wendy. I love you! Isn't she wonderful?

My dear young brothers and sisters, these surely *are* the latter days, and the Lord is hastening His work to gather Israel. That gathering is the most important thing taking place on earth today. Nothing else compares in magnitude, nothing else compares in importance, nothing else compares in majesty. And if you choose to, if you want to, you can be a big part of it. You can be a big part of something big, something grand, something majestic!

When we speak of the *gathering*, we are simply saying this fundamental truth: every one of our Heavenly Father's children, on both sides of the veil, deserves to hear the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. They decide for themselves if they want to know more.

Those whose lineage is from the various tribes of Israel are those whose hearts will most likely be turned to the Lord. He said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."³ Those who are of the house of Israel will most easily recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and will desire to be gathered into His fold. They will want to become members of His Church, make covenants with Him and Heavenly Father, and receive their essential ordinances.

The Lord told the Prophet Joseph Smith that now, meaning our day, is the eleventh hour and the last time that He will call laborers into His vineyard for the express purpose of gathering the elect from the four quarters of the earth.⁴

My question tonight to every one of you between the ages of 12 and 18 is this: Would you like to be a big part of *the greatest* challenge, *the greatest* cause, and *the greatest* work on earth today?

Would you like to help gather Israel during these precious latter days? Would you, who are the elect, be willing to help find the elect who have not heard the message of the restored gospel? Would you like to be among those "swift messengers" of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke?⁵



Now, participating in the gathering of Israel will require some sacrifice on your part. It may even require some changes in your life. It will definitely take some of your time and energy and your God-given talents. Are you interested?

Just think of the excitement and urgency of it all: every prophet commencing with Adam has seen our day. And every prophet has talked about *our* day, when Israel would be gathered and the world would be prepared for the Second Coming of the Savior. Think of it! Of all the people who have ever lived on planet earth, we are the ones who get to participate in this final, great gathering event. How exciting is that!

Our Heavenly Father has reserved many of His most noble spirits—perhaps, I might say, His finest team—for this final phase. Those noble spirits—those finest players, those heroes—are *you*!

I testify that the gathering is now, and it is real. In the year I was born, the total membership of the Church was less than 600,000 people, with no members in South America. Today there are more than 16 million members worldwide, with nearly 3 million members in South America.

America.



Our Heavenly Father has reserved many of His most noble spirits—perhaps, I might say, His finest team—for this final phase. Those noble spirits—those finest players, those heroes—are you!

“What can I, as a teenager, do to help gather Israel?”.....

We first asked, “What is the gathering of Israel? And what does it mean to you?” Their answers varied, but the majority indicated they weren’t quite sure what it was. Tonight, we want you to know that the gathering of Israel ultimately means offering the gospel of Jesus Christ to God’s children on both sides of the veil who have neither made crucial covenants with God nor received their essential ordinances.

Every child of our Heavenly Father deserves the opportunity to *choose* to follow Jesus Christ, to accept and receive His gospel with all of its blessings—yes, all the blessings that God promised to the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who, as you know, is also known as Israel.

My dear extraordinary youth, you were sent to earth at this precise time, the most crucial time in the history of the world, to help gather Israel. There is *nothing* happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is *nothing* of greater consequence. Absolutely *nothing*.

This gathering should mean *everything* to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth.

So my question to you is “Are you willing to enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord to help gather Israel?” Please think about it. Don’t answer just yet.

Principles the Govern Revelation: (compiled by Dr. Ronald D. Anderson PhD)

RECEIVING THE MIND AND WILL OF THE LORD

What principles govern the giving and receiving of revelation?

The spirit of inspiration, the gift of revelation, does not belong to one man solely; it is not a gift that pertains to the Presidency of the Church and the Twelve Apostles alone. It is not confined to the presiding authorities of the Church; it belongs to every individual member of the Church, and it is the right and privilege of every man, every woman, and every child who has reached the years of accountability to enjoy the spirit of revelation and to be possessed of the spirit of inspiration in the discharge of his duties as a member of the Church. It is the privilege of every individual member of the Church to have revelation for his own guidance, for the direction of his life and conduct.... (Joseph F. Smith, Conference Report, Apr. 1912, pS) Every man has the privilege to exercise these gifts and these privileges in the conduct of his own affairs; in bringing up his children in the way they should go; in the management of his business, or whatever he does. It is his right to enjoy the spirit of revelation and of inspiration to do the right thing, to be wise and prudent, just and good; in everything that he does. [Stand Ye in Holy Places (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1974), p. 141—42] Now I say that we are entitled to revelation. I say that every member of the Church, independent and irrespective of any position that he may hold, is entitled to get revelation from the Holy Ghost; he is entitled to entertain angels; he is entitled to view the visions of eternity; and if we would like to go the full measure, he is entitled to see God the same way that any prophet in literal and actual reality has seen the face of Deity.

(Bruce R. McConkie, "How To Get Personal Revelation," Address given at BYU, October 11, 1966, p.3.) I have come to believe also that it is not wise to continually talk of unusual spiritual experiences. They are to be guarded with care and shared only when the Spirit itself prompts you to use them to the blessing of others. (Boyd K. Packer, "The Candle of the Lord," Ensign, January 1983, p. 53) Should you receive a vision or revelation from the Almighty, one that the Lord gave you concerning yourselves, or this people, but which you are not to reveal on account of your not being the proper person, or because it ought not to be known by the people at present, you should shut it up and seal it as close, and lock it as tight as heaven is to you, and make it as secret as the grave. The Lord has no confidence in those who reveal secrets, for he cannot safely reveal himself to such persons. (Brigham Young, Discourses, pp. 40—41.) I suggest that there is not a right and wrong to every question. To many questions, there are only two wrong answers or two right answers. Thus, a person who seeks guidance on which of two different ways he should pursue to get even with a person who has wronged him is not likely to receive a revelation. Neither is a person who seeks guidance on a choice he will never have to make because some future event will intervene, such as a third alternative that is dearly preferable....No answer is likely to come to a person who seeks guidance in choosing between two alternatives that are equally acceptable to the Lord. Thus, there are times when we can serve

productively in two different fields of labor. Either answer is right. (Dallin H. Oaks, 'Revelation,' BYLT Fireside and Devotional Speeches, 1982, p. 26) When a revelation is given to any people, they must walk according to it, or the enal which is the punishment of disobedience, but en the word is, "will you do thus and so?" "It is the mind and will of God that you perform such and such a duty"; the consequences of disobedience are not so dreadful, as they would be if the word of the Lord were to be written under the declaration, "Thus saith the Lord." (Brigham Young, Discourses, p. 38.) A man or woman may ask of God, and get a witness and testimony from God concerning any work or messenger that is sent unto them; but if a person asks for a thing that does not concern him, such as governing the Church, as a member of the Church inquiring concerning the duty of a presiding Elder, what the prophet or the Tweive ought to do, etc. he will not get an answer....If he does it will not be from God.

(Brigham Young, HC, 5:577) I will inform you that it is contrary to the economy of God for any member of the Church. or any one, to receive instruction for those in authority, higher than themselves: therefore you will see the impropriety of giving heed to them: but if any person have a vision or a visitation from a heavenly messenger it must be for his own benefit and instruction; for the fundamental principles. government, and doctrine of the Church are vested in the keys of the kingdom. (Joseph Smith, Teachings, p. 21.) I have learned that strong, impressive spiritual experiences do not come to us very frequently. And when they do, they are generally for our own edification, instruction, or correction. Unless we are called by proper authority to do so, they do not position us to counsel or to correct others. (Boyd K. Packer, "The Candle of the Lord," Ensign, Jan. 1983, p. 53.) First, we should understand what can be called the principle of "stewardship in revelation." Our Heavenly Father's house is a house of order, where his servants are commanded to "act in the office in which (they are] appointed" (D&C 107:99). This principle applies to revelation. Only the president of the Church receives revelation to guide the entire Church. Only the stake president receives revelation for the special guidance of the stake. The person who receives revelation for the ward is the bishop. For a family, it is the priesthood leadership of the family, receive revelation for their own stewardships. Individuals can receive revelation to guide their own lives. But when one person purports to receive revelation for another person outside his or her own stewardship such as a Church member who claims to have revelation to guide the entire Church or a person who claims to have a revelation to guide another person over whom he or she has no presiding authority according to the order of the Church—you can be sure that such revelations are not from the Lord. If a revelation is outside the limits of stewardship, you know it is not from the Lord, and you are not bound by it. I have heard of cases where a young man told a young woman she should marry him because he had received a revelation that she was to be his eternal companion. If this is a true revelation, it will be confirmed directly to the woman if she seeks to know. In the meantime, she is under no obligation to heed it. She should seek her own guidance and make up her own mind. The man can receive revelation to guide his own actions, but he cannot properly receive revelation to direct hers. She is outside his stewardship. (Dallin H. Oaks, "Revelation," Speeches of the Year, 1981, p. 25.) ...we never inquire at the hand of God for special revelation only in case of there being no previous revelation to suit the case..It is a great thing to inquire at the hands of God, or to come into His presence; and we feel fearful to approach Him on subjects that are of little or no consequence, to satisfy the queries of individuals, especially about things the knowledge of which men ought to obtain in all sincerity, before God, for themselves, in humility by the prayer of faith.... (Joseph Smith, Teachings, p. 22) It should not be necessary today for us to expect new written revelation on every point when we have these men thus possessed of that same spirit of revelation. A brief review of the past instruction of our leaders should only serve to warn the

disobedient and to encourage the obedient to continue faithful. (Harold B. Lee, in CR, Oct. 41, p. 114.) We are expected to use the light and knowledge we already possess to work out our lives. (Boyd K. Packer, 'The Candle of the Lord,' Ensign, January 1983, p. 53) Similarly, the Spirit of the Lord is not likely to give us revelations on matters that are trivial. I once heard a young woman in a testimony meeting praise the spirituality of her husband, indicating that he submitted every question to the Lord. She told how he went shopping and would not even choose between different brands of canned vegetables without making his selection a matter of prayer. That strikes me as improper. I believe the Lord expects us to use the intelligence and experience he has given us to make these kinds of choices. (Dallin H. Oaks, "Revelation," Speeches of the Year, 1981, p. 26.) The Spirit does not get our attention by shouting or shaking us with a heavy hand. Rather it whispers. It caresses so gently that if we are preoccupied we may not feel it at all... Occasionally it will press just firmly enough for us to pay heed. But most of the time, if we do not heed the gentle feeling, the Spirit will withdraw and wait until we come seeking and listening,...

(Boyd K. Packer, "The Candle of the Lord," Ensign, January 1983, p. 53)